IN THE CLAIMS:

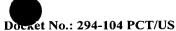
Please delete claims 9 to 15.

(NOTE: For the examiner's convenience, applicants are listing all of the claims and indicating the amended claims.)

Please amend the claims as follows:

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- 1. (Amended) A starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.
- 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said first fraction comprises starch cross-linked by using sodium trimetaphospate, phosphorus oxytrichloride or adipic anhydride.
- 3. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said first fraction further comprises stabilized starch.
- 4. (Amended) A composition according to claim 3 wherein said first fraction is stabilized by hydroxyalkylation.
- 5. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said second fraction comprises depolymerized starch obtained by oxidation.
- 6. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said second fraction further comprises stabilized starch.
- 7. (Amended) A composition according to claim 6 wherein said second fraction is stabilized by acetylation.
- 8. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said starch is derived from potato.



- 9. (Deleted)
- 10. (Deleted)
- 11. (Deleted)
- 12. (Deleted)
- 13. (Deleted)
- 14. (Deleted)
- 15. (Deleted)

Please add the following claims:



- 16. A method for preparing a thickened foodstuff comprising mixing a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch with a water-based liquid.
- 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said foodstuff comprises confectionery.
- 18. Foodstuff comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.
- 19. A foodstuff according to claim 18 wherein the use of said composition at least partly replaces the use of gelatine in said foodstuff.
- 20. Confectionery comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.